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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 21, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 16 totaled an estimated 17.5 billion ton-miles, 3.6 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 33 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 580 billion ton-miles, 2.0 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended August 16 totaled 428,943 cars, 10.3 percent below 1979, but 0.2 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 16.4 percent in the East, 5.2 percent in the South, and 9.0 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 18 of the 21 commodity groups were down, although coal loadings were up 6,396 cars, or 5.8 percent; grain showed an increase of 1,140 cars, or 3.8 percent; and other farm products were up 1,429 cars, or 52.9 percent. Fourteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended August 9 totaled 30,836 cars, down 11.6 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 56,571 trailers and/or containers, 8.2 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 32 weeks of the year was 1,024,229 cars, 10.4 percent lower than last year, and 1,866,121 trailers and/or containers, down 7.6 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/16/80:

	Loadings in Week ended August 16, 1980	Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week		
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	31,462	I	1,140	3.8	D	2,675	7.8
Other farm products	4,131	I	1,429	52.9	I	89	2.2
Metallic ores	27,363	D	14,614	34.8	D	943	3.3
Coal	117,130	I	6,396	5.8	D	97	0 1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,553	D	5,395	28.5	D	1,165	7.9
Nonmetallic minerals	16,601	D	188	1.1	I	1,004	6.4
Grain mill products	16,667	D	1,143	6.4	I	91	0.5
Food and kindred products	18,299	D	262	1.4	I	507	2.8
Primary forest products	19,547	D	2,500	11.3	D	270	1.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,936	D	3,441	27.8	I	117	1.3
Pulp, paper and allied products	19,568	D	1,861	8.7	D	72	0.4
Chemicals and allied products	25,008	D	2,969	10.6	D	79	0.3
Petroleum products	5,404	D	901	14.3	I	135	2.6
Stone, clay and glass products	16,230	D	3,327	17.0	I	722	4.7
Coke	3,923	D	2,647	40.3	I	169	4.5
Metals and products	12,770	D	5,558	30.3	I	650	5.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	11,434	D	2,347	17.0	I	1,199	11.7
Waste and scrap materials	10,741	D	3,314	23.6	I	766	7.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,458	D	2,103	16.7	I	202	2.0
All other carloads	39,345	D	5,657	12.6	I	277	0.7
LCL traffic	373	D	19	4.8	I	166	80.2
Total Cars Loaded	428,943	D	49,281	10.3	I	793	0.2
Corresponding week of 1979	478,224						

	1980	1979	%	Change
Total Cars Loaded (33 weeks)	14,315,559	15,054,766	D	4.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
32 weeks cumulative	562.3	550.2	I	2.2
Week ended August 16	17.5	18.2	D	3.6
33 weeks cumulative	579.9	568.4	I	2.0

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